I. Review

We will be back again in Psalms 19:1-6 today. From this point on, we're going to start getting into some stuff that is really going to help you understand things a lot better about the Bible. There is so much about the Bible that people like to make hard to grasp especially in the science realm with the heavens, earth, and creation, but it's really not. I have a slow process of learning things and really had to work at it, but I have found the easiest way to learn hard things. When I teach the Bible, I just incorporate what I had to do with you because I figure if it worked for me, it will work for you, too.

Psalms 19:1-6. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

- 2. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
- 3. [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard.
- 4. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
- 5. Which [is] as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, [and] rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
- 6. His going forth [is] from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Last week we finished up the five ways that God will get His plan/vision/message to man on planet earth. I showed you five ways that God gives His glory to man, and we went through each one of them. I also showed you how the devil will always go in opposition to that. It all goes together to lay out for us God's three-part plan for His creation. God has a plan for what we call the universe. Within that universe is planet Earth, and God has a plan for planet Earth. On planet Earth is man. God has a plan for man on Earth, with the Earth within the universe, and that universe within the second heaven or the firmament.

Everything God Created is for His Honor and Glory

I have showed you how everything that God has created will be for His honor and glory as well as a picture of who He is. God defines Himself through His creation, and I gave you the key verse found in Romans 1:20 which I think unlocks just about everything you could ever want to get into when it comes to the Bible.

Romans 1:20. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

When God created everything, it was after the pattern of Himself. By that creation, the invisible things about God that most people can't understand are clearly seen and understood through the creation that God made, *even his eternal power and Godhead*—that's a powerful statement there! Today we're going to begin to see the magnitude of truth out of this verse.

II. God Reveals His Glory Through the Sun, Moon, & Stars

Psalms 19, at face value, will be a millennial Psalm. It's a time when God will reign through all three heavens in the millennial reign of Christ. Inspirationally, for us today, it will show us many things about God that will only be understood and clearly seen as we understand His creation.

Genesis 1:14-19. And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

- 15. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.
- 16. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: [he made] the stars also.
- 17. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
- 18. And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that [it was] good.
- 19. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

On the fourth day of God's reconstruction of things, we see that He begins talking about the three things I want to look at today as we move into this a little deeper: the sun, the moon, and the stars. In Psalms 19:4, when he talks about how the heavens declare the glory of God, he talks about *a tabernacle for the sun*. The tabernacle is connected to the second coming of Christ, so the heavens are going to be some kind of picture of the second coming of Christ.

Then in Psalms 19:5 he says, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber. Now the bridegroom is the Lord Jesus Christ. Then he says in Psalms 19:6 that he moves in a circuit (a pattern), and nothing hid from the heat thereof. Now we clearly begin to see that what we have here in the heavens is going to be connected with God revealing His glory through everything that He created, but today, we're going to look at the sun, moon, and stars.

Astrophotography

I have spent over 60 years of my life looking through the eyepiece of a telescope. Astronomy has always intrigued me from a very early age. I got my first telescope when I was probably 10 years old. I went from that little Tasco Refractor up to 12"-16" telescopes and had my own observatory. I've mapped the night sky, learned all the constellations, and photographed every galaxy you can see from the northern hemisphere. It was a challenge for me. Most people think, when you see pictures like I've got displayed here this morning, that you just stick a camera up to the eyepiece. No, it's a little more complicated than that.

I had such a passion and desire to photograph God's heavens that I read every book on the subject I could find and met with some guys who were really good at it. I learned that the two greatest aspects of astrophotography were getting the focus right and being able to track it.

Getting the Right Focus and Tracking

The problem when taking the pictures is that you get it in focus, but as the temperature inversions change, your focus changes. Part of the problem that you get into is what we used to call rotation derogation. The earth is a sphere, and it rotates. Say you want to look at Jupiter. You aim the telescope on Jupiter, pop an eyepiece in, and focus on Jupiter, but as you're watching it, Jupiter is going to pass right out of the field of view. The more magnification you put on it, the faster it moves because you're not only looking at it (something that is fixed in the sky), but you're on planet earth which is rotating. To fix that, they came up with clock drives. They run a set of gears into your telescope. You've got to align your telescope to the north star and then it will track it by counteracting the earth's rotation. That may work for just visually looking at something, but there are no manmade gears that will perfectly take out the rotation of the earth without having your stars trail, blur, etc.

This is where the second challenge comes in. You have your main telescope with your camera in it that's going to take pictures. Now you've got to mount a piggyback telescope on the big telescope, find a star up there, put an eyepiece in with a crosshair and a little circle in the middle, and crank up the magnification. You get the star right in the middle of that circle. Some of the pictures displayed here this morning took me anywhere from 15-30 minutes to take. If I hadn't had some kind of anti-rotation, they would have just been blurred as they went through the sky as the earth rotated. So what you've got to do, and boy did I ever practice this, is with a little hand controller that moves the telescope very slowly (left, right, up, down), you keep the star right in the middle of the circle. I always thought it was interesting that to counteract the earth's rotation, the world, I had to line up where heaven is at (Psalms 75) on the north star and then guide it through that. I took photographs for 10-15 years, and there was a learning curve for me, but boy did I learn some things!

Connecting Everything to the Word of God

Not only was it valuable to learn all of that and be able to do those things, but when I coupled that with the word of God, it really opened up everything for me. I had a program I did for years called the Gospel of the Stars. There were times I would set up a telescope in an empty lot off a highway. People would stop, and I would show them. I could put the video on a tv screen, and 20 people could see what we were looking at through the telescope. Almost like magic, this big galaxy would float into the middle of this tv screen. It was a great opportunity to witness to them and talk about the heavens declaring the glory of God. I've had people turn down tracts, but I've never had a person reject the gospel story when I showed them the heavens because the heavens declare the glory of God.

III. The Sun—A Type of God the Father and Jesus Christ

Malachi 4:1-3. For, behold, **the day** cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

- 2. But unto you that fear my name shall the <u>Sun</u> of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.
- 3. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do [this], saith the LORD of hosts.

The context of Malachi 4:1-3 is the second coming of Christ. Notice in verse one it says *the day*, but what I want you to see is verse two. When it talks about the Lord Jesus Christ coming back, He's called the *Sun of righteousness*, but I want you to notice how it's spelled. It's not spelled S-O-N, it's spelled S-U-N. Clearly the Bible is beginning to make the argument that our sun is a type of God the Father and Jesus Christ in the great scheme of God's creation.

➤ Understanding our Sun

Let's understand a little bit about our sun. It's just an average star. Most people don't know this, but when you look at the stars at night, they are "suns" just like ours. Some of them are bigger and others are smaller. Our sun is just an average star. When you look up into the sky at all the stars up there, you're looking at "suns" just like ours, but you're so far from them that all you see are little pinpoints of light.

Our sun will be the main source of light and life on planet earth. The sun is the center of the solar system—everything revolves around the sun within our solar system. The sun has an average distance of about 93 million miles from the earth and a diameter of 864,000 miles. You could take 1.3 million of our planet earths and dump them into the sun and still not fill it up. That's how big it is!

The sun's surface is very hot—10,000 degrees. The sun also gives off what we call solar radiation. Sometimes the sun will explode off the surface. When you look at the sun through a telescope, obviously you must have solar filters. You put them on the front of your telescope, and they will show you the sun. If you've got a good one with some magnification, you can see the granulation of the sun's surface. It will show you sunspots which are cooler areas on the sun that come out black. But what is really interesting about the sun is the bursts of solar radiation. You can't see that with just the normal filter; you've got to get what they call a hydrogen alpha filter. If you turn the dial on it the right way, you'll see all these prominences shooting off the limb of the sun. Incredible! Sometimes you'll see just little flares going up; sometimes you'll see what looks like a whole piece of the sun has broken off.

When the astronauts are out in space, they've had a couple of close encounters where the solar radiation blast goes past the earth. The earth is protected because of the ozone layer (that you

ladies are destroying with your hairspray), but it will blow out everything in their spacecraft. It shuts down the electrical and can be lethal to them with the dose of radiation.

➤ The Sun is Basically One Big Nuclear Explosion

The sun is an interesting thing to study. If you want an easy understanding of it, the sun is basically one big nuclear explosion, or maybe I should say a billion nuclear explosions going off every millisecond as the sun uses up its energy in a nuclear fission fashion and just keeps blowing and blowing, and that's what makes the light. When they dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (as well as the test ones), one of the things you saw was a blinding white light. In fact, if you're flying in a plane and you're 300 miles from where the atomic bomb goes off, if you look at that white light, it blinds you. That's why the sun is so bright. Down here, we don't get the full brunt of that because of the layers of protection God has put around us. I'm going to show you in the weeks to come how solar radiation and cosmic radiation are connected to the sun being a type of Christ and God.

Genesis 1:16. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: [he made] the stars also.

Here we are told that God made the sun. The Bible says that He made it to be a type of God and Christ; *Day unto day uttereth speech*. He made it not only to be man's source of light and life, but to be His witness in the sky. The Bible tells us that the sun divides the light from the darkness.

➤ God's Glory and the Devil's Glory

Genesis 1:5. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

There are the two different glories—God's glory and the devil's glory. He then says it's *for signs, and for seasons*. That will deal with the nation of Israel. Then He says *for days, and years*. That is man's measurement of time on earth for the last 6,000 years which we know in your Bible as Usher's Chronology—a complete timeline of God on the earth.

➤ The Sun of Righteousness

The Bible says in Malachi 4:2, the <u>Sun</u> of righteousness (talking about Christ) arise with healing in his wings and in Psalms 19:2 says day unto day uttereth speech. It's a picture of everything that God is to us. For example, the sun is (as I said earlier) the center of our solar system. All the planets revolve around the sun. So as a type of God and Christ, everything in our lives spiritually should revolve around the Sun—the Lord Jesus Christ. The Sun is God's light in a dark place, so is Christ. The sun is our source of life, so is Christ. I don't know if you've ever noticed this, but when the sun comes up in the morning, it's blood red. When it sets at night, it's blood red. God fixed the atmosphere when the sun, a type of Christ, came up in the morning and went down at night that the first and last thing man would see was the blood of Jesus Christ. I John 1:7 says, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. When the sun

comes up in the morning, it's a picture of the second coming of Christ. The sun is called *the day* star in 2 Peter 1:19, and Revelation 2:28 calls it *the morning star*.

The sun gives off three types of rays: x-rays, light rays, and heat rays. We know that God the Father is a trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; so the sun, which is a picture of God/Christ, gives off three types of rays.

- 1. X-Rays: Invisible. You can't see them. God is a Spirit.
- 2. Light Rays: Visible. Jesus Christ was the visible appearance of the invisible God.
- 3. Heat Rays: You can't see them, but you feel them. That's the Holy Spirit of God. That's why Psalms 19:6 says *there is nothing hid* (talking about the sun) *from the heat thereof.*

When God created everything, He set His witness in the sky in everything that He created. *Day unto day uttereth speech*.

➤ God Moves East to West – the Devil Moves West to East

Now watch this. I told you the earth was a sphere. It rotates on its axis. By doing that, every morning we see the sun rise in the east, move across the sky throughout the day, and set in the west. In the Bible, every good move that God does goes from east to west. Do you realize that in Genesis chapter 1 where it says the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, God established the flight plan of the Holy Spirit, and you can trace it through the rest of your Bible. That Spirit goes from east to west, but the earth rotates west to east; therefore, every bad move in the Bible is west to east.

When the high priest went into the tabernacle to offer the sacrifice back in the Old Testament, he went from east to west. When Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden after they sinned, they went west to east. God will move east to west, and the devil will move west to east. So God's witness in the heaven is that the sun comes up blood red in the morning, goes across the sky, but as the earth rotates, it rotates in opposition to the direction of God and goes west to east showing you that this world will always be in opposition to the movement of God.

IV. The Moon—A Picture of us as Christians

Now this is a key verse that you'll want to have marked in your Bible. It's one of those little verses that is worth a billion dollars.

Job 25:5. Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.

Now we're going to see that within God's creation, while the sun is a type of God the Father and Jesus Christ, the moon is a picture of you and me as Christians.

Song of Solomon 6:9-10. My dove, my undefiled is [but] one (that's you and me); she is the [only] one of her mother (that's you and me—the church), she [is] the choice [one] of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; [yea], the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.

Now look what He says about you and me as Christians.

10. Who [is] she [that] looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, [and] terrible as [an army] with banners?

This is Solomon talking to his bride, but it's also Christ talking to His church. The context is you and me coming back at the second coming with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Understanding our Moon

The moon has a diameter of about 2,160 miles. Its distance from the earth is approximately 238,000 miles. Even with the smallest telescope, it is a lifelong treasure to study the moon. If you get an 8"-12" telescope, you can focus on objects about a thousand yards in diameter. I think of the crater Trego that is in the southern part of the moon. Whatever hit it put rays out for hundreds and hundreds of miles; it's known as the great ray impact crater. You have the Apennine Mountains which were always special to me. Depending on when you catch them, you can see the shadows catching the peaks on the lunar surface. There's the Straight Wall which only comes up when the moon is in certain phases, but it looks like somebody took a black magic marker and drew a line right through the middle of the crater. It's a wall that's probably 4,000-5,000 feet high, but it's straight and the way that the sun angles it, it catches the shadow and makes it look like it has a straight black mark. I've got great pictures of that, too. You've got something called the Diamond Necklace which is a bunch of little craters in a circle that looks like a necklace.

➤ The Moon Reflects the Light of the Sun

Where the sun is a type of Christ, the moon is going to represent us as Christians. Let me show you how this works. **Job 25:5 says the moon doesn't shine by its own light.** The moon doesn't have any direct light; **it will always reflect the light of the sun.** You and I as Christians don't have any light of our own. When you got saved, the light that you have to a lost world comes from the light that you reflect in your relationship with Christ.

We're told that the sun is the light of the day, but the moon is the light of God's reflection in the night. That will be a picture of the church age. The moon at its brightest only reflects $1/10^{th}$ of the light that comes from the sun. I think that's very important because no matter how spiritual we get or how much we know about the Bible, there will always be 9/10ths that we will never get. We are always going to be just a glimmer of what God is, but it's enough to be the light in this dark world.

Waxing and Waning

The moon will also go through phases. When it's getting bigger and bigger, it's called a waxing moon. When it's getting dimmer and dimmer, it's called a waning moon. These are incredible pictures. When you have the waxing moon, it starts out with just a little silver of a moon and gets a little bigger every night until suddenly it's a full moon. It's a picture of our spiritual growth. The day you got saved, you started out with just a little sliver, but as you got the word of God in your life and began to grow, you came to the place where you shined in this old dark

world everything you could to the Lord. But you must go through a process like the moon does to get to a full moon.

Then we have the waning moon. That's a picture of a Christian that begins to get out of fellowship. They may start out bright, but every day they get a little dimmer. Then the waning moon ends up with what we call a new moon. That's a night where there is no moon. It's just darkness. One is a picture of the phases that bring you to a full relationship with God where you're a light in darkness, and the other is a picture of the phases which show you how step-by-step you lose the glory of God's light in your life and then wind up with no light.

➤ Comparisons of the Moon to us as Christians

Romans 1:20. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Once you're saved, you're never part of this world again.

Science for years used to talk about where the moon came from. One of the theories they had was called the Pacific Theory. In the fallacy of evolution, when the earth was just a molten blob of whatever, it was spinning around and a big piece of the earth slung off and got caught in the earth's gravitational pull and became the moon. They called it the Pacific Theory because they found a place in the Pacific Ocean that looked like the moon could have come from it. Now that we have moon rocks and have learned things about the moon, we know that the moon was never part of the earth.

2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: **old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

A Christian is dead, and his life is hid with Christ in God.

For years the big question was if there was life on the moon. Now we know there was never life on the moon. I could have saved them a lot of money because as a type of the Christian, the moon would have to be dead because Colossians 3:3 says, *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.* There couldn't be any life up there.

The clouds and storms of this world block the light of the moon.

On a clear night, with a full moon, it is so bright that it will cast a shadow on this old dark world much like our Christian life should be. When the sun comes up in the morning, the moon disappears. It's a picture of the rapture of the church. But on some nights the clouds of this world roll in, and they block the light of the moon from the sun. As a child of God, when you let the clouds of this world come into your life, or sometimes when a storm will roll into your life, the light gets swallowed up. It's a picture of us out of fellowship when the world interferes with the light of the moon that comes from God.

The glory of the light of God covers up our imperfections.

When you step out at night and see the full moon, it looks beautiful. In reality, if you bring in a telescope (a picture of the word of God) and crank up the power to 50x, 100x, 200x, do you know what you'll see? The beauty of the moon will be gone. Now you'll see the chaos and destruction that hit the moon at some time in the distant past. You'll see craters and remnants of some disaster that pocked the moon full of craters and crevices. But to the human eye, the glory of the light of God from the sun covers up all the imperfections of the moon. That's just the way it is with you and me. We've all had some disasters in our lives, but the Bible says that He arises with healing in His wings. And when you got saved, the glory of God covered up all those imperfections. Just as you look at the moon and don't see all the past, you can look at God's people today with the love of God in their faces and not see all the things we all had to go through that God's healing in His wings fixed for us.

The best way to study the Bible is through contrast.

When you study the moon through a telescope, you never want to do it at full moon. It has so much glare and brightness that you can't really see anything. The best time to look at the moon is when there is a contrast between the light and the darkness. It's called the terminator. The best way to study the Bible is also through contrast. The darkness will illuminate the things in the light and make them stand out more. Light vs darkness; right vs wrong; God vs the devil; day vs night; Old Testament and New Testament; Israel and the church; law and grace. That's the way you get your Bible down.

V. The Stars

When we get outside of our solar system, we have the stars. We measure the distance of planets in our solar system by miles. Pluto, which is the farthest out there, is 4.6 billion miles from the sun. When you get outside the solar system, they use light years. Light travels at 186,000 miles a second. A 19th century German astronomer named Friedrich Bessel came up with measuring distances by light years. I'll be the first to tell you that I'm very suspect of the light year and the distances. The closest star is Alpha Centauri 4.7 light years away. In other words, if you're looking at it though a telescope, and it blew up, you'd still see it for 4.7 years. You wouldn't see the explosion for 4.7 years because the light is still coming. The NGC 6945 galaxy is 860 million light years away from planet earth. In other words, if we're looking at that through a telescope or taking a picture and it blew up, we would still see it for 860 million years before the light of the explosion would get to us.

So how did Friedrich Bessel come up with light years? He came up with his own composition, but he didn't have the piece that he really needed; so, he made it up. Science buys it and believes it because science will believe anything another scientist says whether it's true or not. So this fallacy of light years comes into being when nobody could ever prove it. I mean light travels that fast, but to say a galaxy is 860 million light years away is based on what?

> Stars are Suns Just like our Sun

The Bible says *he made the stars also*. As I told you, stars are "suns" just like our sun. Our day star is the sun, but they come in different sizes as you look at them in outer space. They have different brightnesses. Those brightnesses are called magnitudes. The brightest star on the magnitude scale would be one and it just keeps going and going. Our naked eye can see on a clear night down to six magnitude with decent eyesight. With my 12" telescope, Pluto is 11th magnitude. You can't see Pluto with a naked eye, and with my 12" telescope, it is just a very faint star. With the Mount Palomar telescope, which is 200 inches, visually all they can see is the 22nd magnitude.

Some stars are larger than our sun, and they call those red giants. We're told that you could take millions of our "suns" and put them inside a red giant. Some are smaller, and they are called white dwarfs. Then there are stars that are average just like our sun. These stars, from our position in the solar system on planet earth, form constellations. A constellation is a group of stars that form some kind of picture. Originally these pictures told the gospel story, but obviously God moved then the devil moved. The devil brought in Greek and Roman mythology that changed it all. **Then the devil counterfeited Biblical astronomy with satanic astrology.**

➤ The Constellations and the Gospel in the Stars

As you go through the northern and southern hemisphere, you have 88 constellations from our line of sight; however, around the earth in a circle, you have 12 constellations which are called the zodiac. Zodiac is a belt of eight degrees on the earth's ecliptic. The ecliptic are the 12 sections these constellations make up. In these 12 constellations, which match up to the 12 tribes, you will find the gospel of the stars. (In a couple of weeks, we're going to see how these 12 constellations line up to the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel in eternity).

You can still see the Biblical references no matter what Greek and Roman mythology have done to them. You have Cygnus the Swan as the Greeks and Romans called it, but it was originally the Northern Cross. If you looked at it you would see a cross right over the top of the sky, and God is no respecter of persons, so down in the southern hemisphere (which these stars never get to), you have the Southern Cross. You have a constellation called Cetus which is a whale (Matthew 12, Jonah). You have Orion the mighty hunter which is a type of the antichrist (Job 9:9). You have the constellation called Leo the Lion. In Revelation 5:5, Jesus Christ is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah; however, you know as well as I do that 2 Corinthians 11 says that everything that God does the devil counterfeits, so you've got two Leos in the sky. You have Leo the Lion and Leo Minor which is a counterfeit (I Peter 5:8). Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: The Bible has it all nailed down.

You have Draco the Dragon who is found in Isaiah 27 and Job 41. You have the Corona Borealis or the Northern Crown, which will be the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. You have Virgo the Virgin which will be Isaiah 7:14. There is Perseus, whom I'll call Jesus Christ. The sea monster has captured Andromeda, the woman, and Perseus, my Jesus, comes down and defeats the dragon. He takes the woman (Israel), and then he mounts up on a winged horse

(Revelation 19) called Pegasus and flies with her through the sky. That's the second coming of Christ laid out for you, but you see what the devil does to it.

You have Cassiopeia, the queen, who will be Esther or Israel. You have Pisces the fish. Jesus said, *I will make you fishers of men*. You have Sagittarius the Centaur who is half man and half horse; you'll find him in Isaiah and Genesis 6. You have Gemini, the twins, as in the Bible you have Cain and Abel as well as Jacob and Esau. On and on it goes.

You can see how God intended all this to work. He says *day unto day*, so He gave us the sun that the earth rotates against that comes up blood red so we can see it and understand it. Then he says *night unto night*. The heavens declaring the glory of God. *Night unto night sheweth knowledge*. As I said the earth is a sphere or globe which rotates on its axis and you have across the sky all these constellations that represent the Bible story so that through the night (the stars don't move; they're fixed), as the earth rotates, you have a movie presentation of all those constellations. Every one of them tells you a different message about God and the Bible all night long.

➤ In the Bible, Stars Will Represent Two Basic Things

Doctrinally, stars will be angels.

Revelation 9:1. And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a **star** fall from heaven unto the earth: and **to him** was given the key of the bottomless pit.

This is in the tribulation, and he is an angel. This will be a great key in figuring out things in the word of God. When I used to do the Gospel in the Stars, I did a special presentation on the Star of Bethlehem at Christmas. Science, the world, and even goofy Christians want to take away the supernatural aspect of the Star of Bethlehem. They'll tell you it was a comet that came through or that there was a conjunction of Jupiter and Venus which are two really bright stars. No, the star of Bethlehem, once you understand stars in the Bible, was the Angel of the Lord guiding those wise men.

Of course these people often have an axe to grind against God and the Bible, so they want to disprove it. If it was a common or natural thing, why didn't everybody see it? Herod didn't see it. He had to ask the wise men; they're the only ones who saw it. And this star stopped and moved then stood exactly over where Christ was born. They won't tell you that; anything to get rid of the word of God.

Inspirationally, stars will represent us who are saved at the judgment seat of Christ.

I Corinthians 15:39-43. All flesh [is] not the same flesh: but [there is] one [kind of] flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, [and] another of birds.

- 40. [There are] also celestial (up in the heavens) bodies, and bodies terrestrial (on earth): but the glory of the celestial [is] one, and the glory of the terrestrial [is] another.
- 41. There [is] one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

- 42. **So also [is] the resurrection of the dead.** It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
- 43. It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

When we stand at the judgment seat of Christ, we're going to be like the stars up in heaven.

Daniel 12:2-3. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt.

This is God's judgment here.

3. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Do you see that? It says as one star differeth from another star in glory, so also is the resurrection of the dead. Every time you go out and you look at the night sky and you see the moon and you see the stars, you're reminded that someday we're going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ—or you should be. We are going to be like the stars of heaven at the judgment seat of Christ: some bright, some dim, some not even showing up at all.

> Stars will Represent the Five Types of Christians

Stars will represent the five types of Christians in God's church. Not only the stars up in heaven, but the five types of Christians on this earth typified by the five stars that you'll look at if you ever get into astronomy. Do you want to know where you're at today?

- 1. <u>Variable Stars</u>: They are called variable because they have no consistency in their brightness. One week they may be at magnitude four or two; the next week(s) they're down to magnitude five or six. They vary in their brightness over time. They're bright for a little bit and then they're dim. Did you ever meet any Christians like that? When you're doing star alignments with your telescope or doing map references, you can't ever use variable stars in the equation because you can't count on them to be steady and bright. Some of God's people are just that way in Christianity. You can't count on them for anything.
- 2. <u>Nova Stars</u>: They are stars that begin to die unto themselves. They begin to burn up the brightness or what energy they have at a faster rate. It will go from magnitude two to become brighter and brighter then suddenly it gets dimmer and dimmer until you can't see it anymore. How many times I've seen God's people come into church, say they've gotten saved, get on fire for God, then six months later they're gone. They burn bright for a while, but then they're gone.
- 3. <u>Shooting Stars</u>: They're not really stars. They are just pieces of dead rock. Many times you see people come to church who claim to be Christians, but you find out very quickly they've never been saved. They're just passing through then they're gone. There is no real depth to them because they're not real stars; they're just hunks of dead rock that blow through our atmosphere and burn up.

- 4. **<u>Dwarf Stars</u>**: They are very small and never become very bright. They are pictures of Christians who refuse to grow spiritually. They're saved, but they never come to their full magnitude of what they should.
- 5. <u>Super Giants</u>: They are the brightest stars in the heavens. You can't see it right now because it's a winter star, but the brightest star is what we call Sirius. Sirius looks like a beacon in the sky; it's so bright. The super giant stars will be pictures of Christians, men and women, who shine all through the night. They never lose their brightness, and they're the leaders of God's light and God's truth. They are stable and constant. God uses them to help people navigate through life.

VI. Summary

Everything God created in the heavens will declare the glory of God. Some of them *day unto day* and some *night unto night*. When you look at the sun, you see two times per day the blood that Jesus Christ shed for you. Through the rotation of the earth, we see how the world revolving west to east will always be against the sun going east to west. In the night, as the earth rotates on its 24-hour cycle, we see the panoramic slideshow of the constellations in the witness of the night sky. The whole thing is actually built around the two days in the Bible and the two key judgments associated with them—the day of the Lord/the great white throne and the day of Jesus Christ/the rapture of the church. Daniel 12:2-3 says that some are going to go to everlasting destruction and contempt while some like the stars of heaven are going to shine forever and ever.

➤ Thinking About What it All Represents

There is not a day that goes by, when I get up in the morning and see that sun coming up, that I don't think about what it represents. I know the course that it's going to go, and I know this world is going to go in opposition to it as it rotates against it. I go out at night and notice the phase of the moon. I think about spiritual growth. When I see a full moon, it reminds me of some of you. I've watched you grow through those phases as you got to the place where—here you are as a full moon; your light shining. Unfortunately, I've seen it go the other way with some of God's people, too.

As 1 Corinthians 15:39-43 and Daniel 2:2-3 say, some of us are going to shine with the brightness of the firmament. Every time you look up at the night sky; every time you see the sun, you ought to be reminded that there is a day coming. We're going to stand before the Lord, and how bright are we going to shine in that day? The judgment seat of Christ is right around the corner.

Now are We the Sons of God

I'll leave you with this. I told you that the stars are suns just like ours, but from our position on planet earth, they are just points of light. We don't really think of them as suns like ours even though they are. In the night sky, some are obviously brighter than others and they represent us as Christians because we too are the sons of God. And this will be the great unknown truth as you look at the stars.

I John 3:1-3. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

- 2. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- 3. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

➤ It Doth Not Yet Appear What We Shall Be

That verse says that right now I can look at the sun, and I know that sun is a type of Jesus Christ. I can look at the night sky and see all the stars, and I also know that they are suns. That's a picture of each one of us because right now, in this body, we are the sons of God but *it doth not yet appear what we shall be*. There's a time coming when you're going to get His body. The two adoptions in Romans 8 are spiritually and physically. You've got the spiritual. The physical one is coming, and you are going to shine just like that sun you see in the sky. You don't ever want to forget those things.

➤ We Need to Purify our Flesh Daily

Then he says in verse 3, and here is the key to everything I said today, and every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Are you saved? Do you have the hope in you? Do you understand that you are a son of God and it doth not yet appear what you shall be? Can you put all of those things that I've given you today about the heavens, the sun, the moon, and the stars, now into a better understandable context? If you have that hope within you, knowing what you know today, you take what you know and you purify yourself even more than you're already pure.

What he's saying here is that you're pure in the fact that your soul is sealed unto the day of redemption. What you need to purify daily is this flesh; your spirit. How do you do that? By understanding everything I have given you today and realizing the heavens declare the glory of God. God gave this earth five things to declare His glory, and we were one of them.